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Message Text

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43/42
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INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00

EUR-25 AEC-11 ISO-00 MC-02 L-03 (ISO) R

DRAFTED BY:EB/ITP/EWT:JRTARTTER
APPROVED BY:EB/ITP/EWT:RBWRIGHT
COMM MR DIXON (INFORMED)
EUR/NE- MR FLOYD (SUB)
DOD/ISA/DR MOUNTAIN(INFORMED)
---------- 013055
R 222049Z MAY 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON
OECD PARIS 5782

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 107293

EXCON

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (NO E.O. LINE)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ESTC
SUBJECT: COCOM: US-UK BILATERALS ON COMPUTER CONTROLS

REF: STATE 84938

1. US-UK BILATERALS WERE HELD MAY 20-21 TO REVIEW PROPOSED US COCOM POSITION ON LEVEL OF COMIUTER CONTROLS.

2. BRITISH ACKNOWLEDGED US PROPOSAL WOULD SIMPLIFY COCOM LIST DEFINITIONS AND WOULD REDUCE ADMINISTRATIVE LOAD. THEY IMPLICITLY ACCEPTED RESTRUCTURING OF IL 1565 ALONG LINES OF US PROPOSAL. THEIR ESTIMATES OF SOVIET AND PRC CAPABILITIES WERE SIMILAR TO THOSE ON WHICH US PROPOSALS WERE BASED.

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3. SUBSTANTIAL UK DISAGREEMENTS WITH US PROPOSAL WERE AS

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FOLLOWS:

A. UK EXPRESSED MAJOR OBJECTION TO US-PROPOSED ADMINISTRATIVE EXCEPTION LEVEL OF PROCESSING DATA RATE (PDR) OF 4 MILLION BITS PER SECOND (PARA 8 OF REFTEL), PREFERRING EXISTING EASY ACCESS LEVEL OF PDR OF 8 MILLION, WITH PERIPHERAL MEMORY CAPACITY OF 700 MILLION BITS, I.E. HIGHER THAN EASY ACCESS LEVEL. BRITISH ARGUED THAT TO SET AE LEVEL AT PDR OF 4 MILLION WOULD MARK A REIMPOSITION OF STRICTER CONTROLS ON EXPORTS TO EASTERN EUROPE AND USSR IN THE RANGE OF 4-8 PDR. US SAID LEVEL OF 4 PDR WOULD PERMIT FAIRLY SIGNIFICANT COMPUTERS TO BE EXPORTED TO PRC UNDER MINIMAL CONDITIONS BUT, PENDING MORE EXPERIENCE WITH PRC MARKET, WE SHOULD PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY IN LEFTING CONTROL LEVELS.
B. BRITISH WANTED SOMEWHAT HIGHER CUT-OFF FOR COMPUTERS EXPORTED ON BASIS OF 30-DAY WAITING PERIOD, IJME. PDR OF 35 INSTEAD OF 32 AND SUM OF I/0 AND CPU BUS RAES NOT TO EXCEED 100 MILLION BITS/SEC INSTEAD OF 80. (PARA 9.A. OF REFTEL SHOULD HAVE READ 80 INSTEAD OF 60). US SAID IT WOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT UK VIEWS IF CERTAIN UK COMPUTERS WOULD BE HIT BY PROPOSED CUT-OFFS.

C. BRITISH WANT MUCH HIGHER MEMORY CAPACITY FOR UPPER CUT-OFF, I.E. AN INTERNAL MEMORY OF 8.4 MILLION BITS (US PROPOSAL IS 4.72) AND TOTAL PERIPHERAL MEMORY CAPACITY OF 3200 MILLION BITS (US PROPOSAL IS 1900). BRITISH ARGUED THAT 2311 AND 2314-TYPE MEMORS DISCS WERE OBSOLETE OR OBSOLESCENT AND FIRMS WOULD WITHIN ONE YEAR BE SUPPLYING ONLY 3330-TYPE DISCS. THIS WOULD MEAN IN EFFECT THAT HIGHER CUT-OFF WOULD HAVE LITTLE PRACTICAL BENEFIT SINCE COMPUTERS POTENTIALLY LIBERALIZED WOULD STILL BE SUBJECT TO EXCEPTIONS TREATMENT BECAUSE AVAILABLE MEMORIES WOULD BE ABOVE CUT-OFF LEVEL. US POINTED OUT EAST HAS NOT DEMONSTRATED PRODUCTION CAPACITY FOR 2314S AND ROUTINE SUPPLY OF 3330'S WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE.

D. BRITISH PRESSED FOR TIME LIMIT OF TWO YEARS ON CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO COMPUTERS IN 16-32 PDR RANGE. THES NOTED FACT THAT CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO MAJOR SYSTEMS CONFIDENTIAL

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PREVIOUSLY APPROVED CONTAINED TIME LIMITS, ALSO DIFFICULTY OF SECURING FROM END-USER SIGNED COMMITMENTS OF INDEFINITE DURATION. US SAID CONDITIONS SHOULD REMAIN IN EFFECT UNTIL EMBARGO LEVELS ARE CHANGED.

4. EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY AND OEM SALES, ON WHICH US POSITION NOT YET FORMULATED, REVEALED

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NO MAJOR DIFFERENCES IN APPROACH.

5. NO EFFORT WAS MADE TO RESOLVE DIFFERENCES DURING MEETING AND UK DID NOT ASK FOR FURTHER CONSULTATIONS PRIOR TO SUBMISSION TO COCOM OF US PROPOSAL. THEY DID URGE EARLIEST TABLING OF PROPOSAL IN COCOM WITH VIEW TO HAVING NEW DEFINITION IN EFFECT BY END OF YEAR. US PROMISED EVERY EFFORT TO TABLE BY MID-JULY SO DISCUSSIONS AT PARIS COULD BEGIN SEPTEMBER.

6. SOME MEMBERS OF UK EELEGATION REMAINED FOR TECHNICAL BRIEFING MAY 22 ON US EFFORTS TO DEVELOP NEW METHOD OF COMPUTER PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT. RUSH

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